



## Administrative Office of Courts

Court Services & Information Technology Division

# TECHNOLOGY UPDATE

## Welcome

In this edition, we have breaking news from Baldwin County. We will give you an in-depth overview of E-Appellate and how this application can be implemented in your office. New technology is helping police enforce traffic laws. If you thought your idea was just crazy, check out the technology mistakes.

If you have any questions or comments, please email us at [newsletter@alacourt.gov](mailto:newsletter@alacourt.gov).

Volume 3, Issue 2, June 2007



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## E-Appellate

E-Appellate, an internet based application that allows the clerk of the trial court to upload the record on appeal in electronic format, has streamlined the appellate process in the Alabama Judicial System. The Supreme Court authorized the E-Appellate pilot project by order dated March 1, 2005, and the pilot project has expanded to fifteen (15) circuit clerks' offices. Since the inception of E-Appellate, 1180 records on appeal have been filed. The AOC application support team is diligently working to have E-Appellate deployed statewide by the end of 2007. The E-Appellate application has been beneficial for clerks' offices, and some of the advantages include the following:

- Only having to make one electronic copy of the record in civil case (note: for clerks' offices that are currently real-time scanning, NO further scanning is required when arranging the record on appeal);
- The system has a built-in Bates Numbering tools that number the record on appeal automatically;
- The court reporters can email the transcript to the clerk;
- **No** mailing of the Record on Appeal is required, the notice of appeal and the certificate of completion are the only paper copies that still need to be mailed to the parties. The parties to the case log onto the E-Appellate application to retrieve the record on appeal.

If you do not have E-appellate implemented in your office, AOC may be contacting you in the near future to setup a time to introduce you to the application. Thank you for your cooperation and help in making our court system the best in the nation. For more information on E-Appellate, visit <http://legal.alacourt.gov> click on E-Filing and then the E-Appellate Folder. You can also email [applicationsupport@alacourt.gov](mailto:applicationsupport@alacourt.gov) or call 1-866-954-9411 option 1, option 5.

## Newsletter Spotlight

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## Breaking News

*Baldwin County has more e-filed new cases in CV than paper filed.*

It is so exciting to be a part of the e-filing in Baldwin county. It has really helped our office in time saving and efficiency. I am proud to be in a County of court personnel and attorneys who work together for the betterment of the system!

- Jody Campbell  
Circuit Clerk,  
Baldwin Co.

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# TECHNOLOGY UPDATE

May 20, 2007

## *E-Citation saves time, Paperwork*

### **E-Citation saves time, paperwork**

By Tom Smith  
Senior Staff Writer

New technology is helping police enforce traffic laws.

"We've been implementing E-Citation for about three years," said Paul Mashburn, public information officer with the Quad-Cities State Trooper Post.

Mashburn said the E-Citation computer program was first tested by the troopers' motor carrier safety unit. The Alabama Department of Public Safety expanded the program's use to the highway patrol division.

"We currently have 168 of the E-Citation computers and software packages in operation," Mashburn said. "Another 295 are systematically being installed. Once those are all installed, everyone in the state's highway patrol division will have the E-Citation-capability."

In Alabama, the electronic ticketing system is implemented by the University of Alabama's CARE Research and Development Laboratory, which developed the program in 2003, according to a press release from the laboratory.

Mashburn said the system operates on laptop computers installed in the troopers' patrol cars. He said a trooper swipes the offending driver's license and all of the information needed for the ticket appears on the computer screen.

He said the tickets are electronically transmitted to the Administrative Office of Courts.

"It helps eliminate paperwork for the magistrates and court clerks," said Cpl. Glenn Taylor Jr., of the Quad-Cities post. He has used the system for more than a year. "I don't see a downside to this."

Taylor said if the laptop has a wireless card, the ticket information can be sent from the trooper car to the AOC.

"If they don't have the wireless cards, all (the troopers) have to do at the end of the shift is take the laptop out of the car, bring it into the post and put it into a docking station and send all the information," he said.

Not only does the system eliminate a lot of paperwork, it's also a time saver. "Which allows us more time to work traffic and prevent crashes," Taylor said.

Eddie Russell, director of the North Alabama Highway Safety Office in Tusculumbia, said his office secured a grant to place the system in a few cars for Florence and Huntsville police and the Madison County Sheriff's Office as part of a pilot program.

He said those departments were selected because they already had laptop computers in their patrol cars.

Florence police Deputy Chief Tony Logan said the system is in three of the department's patrol cars. He said offices like the simplicity of the system and the fact that it speeds the process of issuing a citation.

Rogersville police have received three computers through a grant and are waiting for the software.

"The average traffic stop, where a citation is issued, takes about five minutes," said Sgt. Patrick Minor. "With this system, that time will be cut to one to two minutes."

Russell said there are several departments in the area waiting for grants to implement the system.

"This is the future for law enforcement," Russell said. "It puts all the information right there (in front of the officer) at one time."

Russell said once the information is entered into the computer, a ticket is printed and given to the offender "and they're on their way. It's as simple as that."

Taylor said the system is also helpful when giving multiple-tickets.

"It has a replicate feature so when there are multiple citations, instead of handwriting each one, all you have to do is change a few things on the computer and all of the citations will be printed on one sheet," he said.

Another convenience of the system, Russell said, is the fact that so much information is readily available for the law enforcement officer with the swipe of the driver's license.

"The first time I used the system I was on a routine traffic stop," Taylor said. "When I checked the driver's license (of the offender), a warning popped up on the screen that the person had two prior arrests that involved a weapon and he could possibly be armed."

Officers say that kind of information can be a lifesaver.

Developers said the program minimizes errors on tickets, prevents incomplete tickets from being issued and produces useful statistical information.

"It's law enforcement catching up with technology," Taylor said.

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# TECHNOLOGY UPDATE

## ***Technology Mistakes***

- "Who in their right mind would ever need more than 640k of ram!?" -- Bill Gates, 1981
- "Computers in the future may weigh no more than 1.5 tons." -- Popular Mechanics, forecasting the relentless march of science, 1949
- "I think there is a world market for maybe five computers." -- Thomas Watson, chairman of IBM, 1943
- "I have traveled the length and breadth of this country and talked with the best people, and I can assure you that data processing is a fad that won't last out the year." -- The editor in charge of business books for Prentice Hall, 1957
- "But what ... is it good for?" -- Engineer at the Advanced Computing Systems Division of IBM, 1968, commenting on the microchip.
- "There is no reason anyone would want a computer in their home." -- Ken Olson, president, chairman and founder of Digital Equipment Corp., 1977
- "This 'telephone' has too many shortcomings to be seriously considered as a means of communication. The device is inherently of no value to us." -- Western Union internal memo, 1876.
- "The wireless music box has no imaginable commercial value. Who would pay for a message sent to nobody in particular?" -- David Sarnoff's associates in response to his urgings for investment in the radio in the 1920s.
- "The concept is interesting and well-formed, but in order to earn better than a 'C,' the idea must be feasible." -- A Yale University management professor in response to Fred Smith's paper proposing reliable overnight delivery service. (Smith went on to found Federal Express Corp.)
- "I'm just glad it'll be Clark Gable who's falling on his face and not Gary Cooper." -- Gary Cooper on his decision not to take the leading role in "Gone with the Wind."
- "A cookie store is a bad idea. Besides, the market research reports say America likes crispy cookies, not soft and chewy cookies like you make." -- Response to Debbi Fields' idea of starting Mrs. Fields' Cookies.
- "We don't like their sound, and guitar music is on the way out." -- Decca Recording Co. rejecting the Beatles, 1962.
- "Heavier-than-air flying machines are impossible." -- Lord Kelvin, president, Royal Society, 1895.
- "Drill for oil? You mean drill into the ground to try and find oil? You're crazy." -- Drillers who Edwin L. Drake tried to enlist to his project to drill for oil in 1859.
- "Stocks have reached what looks like a permanently high plateau." -- Irving Fisher, Professor of Economics, Yale University, 1929.
- "Airplanes are interesting toys but of no military value." -- Marecha Ferdinand Foch, Professor of Strategy, Ecole Superieure de Guerre.
- "Everything that can be invented has been invented." -- Charles H. Duell, Commissioner, U.S. Office of Patents, 1899.
- "Louis Pasteur's theory of germs is ridiculous fiction". -- Pierre Pachet, Professor of Physiology at Toulouse, 1872
- "The abdomen, the chest, and the brain will forever be shut from the intrusion of the wise and humane surgeon". -- Sir John Eric Ericksen, British surgeon, appointed Surgeon-Extraordinary to Queen Victoria 1873.